

borders will advance Russia's interests by serving as sources of stability and economic opportunity.

We hope Russia's leaders will recognize that a future of cooperation and peace will benefit all parties. The cold war is over. The days of satellite states and spheres of influence are behind us. A contentious relationship with Russia is not in America's interest, and a contentious relationship with America is not in Russia's interest.

With its actions in recent days, Russia has damaged its credibility and its relations with the nations of the free world. Bullying and intimidation are not acceptable ways to conduct foreign policy in the 21st century. Only Russia can decide whether it will now put itself back on the path of responsible nations or continue to pursue a policy that promises only confrontation and isolation. To begin to repair its relations with the United States and Europe and other nations and to begin restoring its place in the world, Russia must respect the freedom of its neighbors.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:13 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Mikheil Saakashvili of Georgia. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Memorandum on Continuation of United States Drug Interdiction Assistance to the Government of Colombia

August 15, 2008

Presidential Determination No. 2008-24

Memorandum for the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense

Subject: Continuation of U.S. Drug Interdiction Assistance to the Government of Colombia

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 1012 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1995, as amended (22 U.S.C. 2291-4), I hereby certify, with respect to Colombia, that (1) interdiction of aircraft reasonably suspected to be primarily engaged in illicit drug trafficking in that country's airspace is necessary be-

cause of the extraordinary threat posed by illicit drug trafficking to the national security of that country; and (2) that country has appropriate procedures in place to protect against innocent loss of life in the air and on the ground in connection with such interdiction, which shall at a minimum include effective means to identify and warn an aircraft before the use of force is directed against the aircraft.

The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to publish this determination in the *Federal Register* and to notify the Congress of this determination.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

August 9

In the morning, at the Westin Beijing Chaoyang hotel in Beijing, China, the President had an intelligence briefing. He was then briefed by Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State James F. Jeffrey and National Security Adviser Stephen J. Hadley on the situation in Georgia. Later, he traveled to the Chaoyang Park Olympic Beach Volleyball Venue, where he attended a U.S. men's and women's Olympic beach volleyball teams practice.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to the Fengtai Olympic Softball Field, where he attended a U.S. Olympic softball team practice.

In the afternoon, the President returned to the Westin hotel. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to the U.S. Ambassador's residence, where they attended a reception with chief executive officer sponsors of the 2008 U.S. summer Olympic team. They then returned to the Westin hotel.